

COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

MINUTES

APRIL 28, 2006

Attendees:

Ken Schremmer – Barton County Commission
Major General Tod Bunting – Adjutant General
Col. William Seck – Kansas Highway Patrol
Dick Morrissey – Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Jaci Vogel – Kansas Department of Transportation
Capt. Ray Gonzales – Kansas Highway Patrol
Dan Thompson – State Fire Marshal's Office
Jack Taylor – Fire Chief, City of Emporia
Karen Schuyler – Astaris
Kevin Moles – Wolf Creek Generating Plant
Randy Duncan – Chairman, Sedgwick County Emergency Management
Jack Alexander – State Fire Marshal
Dick Heitschmidt – City of Hutchinson

Members of public and support staff were in attendance

Members not in Attendance:

Dr. Lyle Noordhoek – Central Plains Laboratory
Matt Jordan – Kansas Department of Commerce

Meeting

- Meeting opened at 10:05 AM
- Remarks from Committee Members and Introduction of Panel including new appointments
- Floor opened for public and committee comments – no remarks made
- Minutes from June 24, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved
 - Kevin Moles motioned and Dan Thompson seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously
- Committee Reports:
 - Presentation and remarks on the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team Report's Mitigation Project Activity in Kansas Since 1993
 - LEPC Appointment Committee – Leticia Arzate
 - Leticia Arzate reported details on the LEPC symposium held on June 24, 2005. LEPC has determined that there is enough demand to extend the symposium to a four day event. Extending the time period for the symposium will accommodate more people who wish to participate in emergency preparedness training. LEPC has determined it to be most cost effective to continue holding the yearly symposium at the 4-H building since the 4-H building can be used at no cost;

thus ensuring LEPC ability to offer emergency training at no cost to participants. LEPC request for appointment of counties was unanimously accepted by the commission.

- Public Safety Communications Committee - Gene Krase
 - Gene Krase reported that the Committee's objective to focus on wireless communication for Phase I encompassing the Southeast portion of Kansas and recommends a charter be created to study and determine wireless communication needs for the remaining regions in Kansas. Randy Duncan acknowledged Gene's recommendation as a good one.
- Emergency Alert System - Bill Nolan
 - Gene Krase respectfully requested the EAS report be deferred until a future time when Bill Nolan, specialist in Emergency Communications, is available to discuss emergency communication options that incorporates cable television and radio.
- Homeland Security Working Group Committee - Gene Krase
 - Gene Krase reports that the Homeland Security Working Group meets every other Tuesday and consists of members of federal as well as county agencies. The Homeland Security Working Group was chartered under COEPER as a means for interagency information exchange. The charter is available for viewing at the COEPER website.
- New Business
 - State of Kansas Regionalization Update - Terri Ploger-McCool
 - Terri Ploger-McCool reported that the Regional Council Meeting, Workshop and Retreat in Wichita Kansas was catalytic to the creation of subcommittees, each of which has met at least once. The purpose for developing each subcommittee is to build internal governance allowing for expanded regional collaboration for emergency preparedness. Each subcommittee has established by-laws and their priorities include: the forming of incident management teams, provision of training exercises, grant research and approval, legislative, communication and policy procedures. Regional assessments and county feedback are considered and encouraged during this time of policy development. Jack Taylor expressed concern over the ability of regional representatives to provide efficient assistance in a time sensitive and cooperative manner. It was decided that assessments of regional resources regarding baseline requirements will inform regional representative and that unforeseen problems will have to be worked out as they arise. Randy Duncan posed a policy questions regarding the definitions of risks. Specifically, are risks and the elements of risk defined by the Federal Government or by individual states? Major General Tod Bunting explained that both entities may define risk and elements of risk depending on the situation. Certainly the local, regional, county and state risk assessments plays a prominent role in risk base factors, yet many of these assessment procedures and criteria are based on federal standards. Crucial to the efficiency of the process is cooperation among entities involved.
 - Mutual Aid and other Legislation - Gene Krase
 - Gene Krase reported to the committee that House Bill 2982, a copy of which is provided, was signed into law on April 13, 2006. Prior to new legislation, The Mutual Aid statute proscribed an opt. in provision; HB2982 instead requires legislative action in order for an agency to *opt out*. The goal of this new

legislation is to improve interagency cooperation capabilities and to clarify issues of interoperability. A.J. Clemmons from the Fire Marshal's office asked if there are provisions for outreach and publicity of the new law. Kevin Moles from Wolf Creek endorsed the legislative effects citing greater collaboration abilities for Wolf Creek security personnel and local police patrolling and protecting areas in and around the plant to the benefit of both plant and local residents/citizens, particularly in terms of Home Land security. Greg Gardner added his endorsement citing police ability to act with authority if a situation calls for such authority as a particular benefit to continued security of the nuclear facility, a prime target for terrorist activity. Greg also expressed his belief that HB2982 will be model legislation for force on force authority and security interdependence.

- Web EOC

- Gene Krase

- Gene Krase explained the benefits of the new Web EOC website and the increased interagency communication and information sharing that it provides. The Web EOC will enable users, with the convenience of a universal and secure login and password, to access current statewide incident information and other link layered information integrating such services as provided by the National Weather Service. Beta testing of the Web EOC is currently underway with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, who has purchased server and software for the system. This server will eventually be integrated with the state EOC server and will provide backup and ongoing communication with Web EOC. Regional training for the system will be provided according to staff availability with specialized training possible. Individual counties may purchase their own EOC servers or can connect with the state system. The KC Metro area currently uses Web EOC in this manner, one benefit being that IT is managed by the state. Kevin Moles, who uses the system, though not state connected, at his Wolf Creek Facility. Major General Tod Bunting endorsed the system as highly user friendly at all levels of use explaining that usability is built into the agreement. The single login feature is designed to ensure seamless movement within the system. Bill Guy, Reno County Coordinator, expressed concern over possible inaccessibility in the event of a severe ice storm and/or intensified use during a disaster situation. Gene Krase acknowledged that to be a very unlikely possibility.

- Meeting recessed at 11:21 AM, reconvened at 11:39 AM

- National Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University - Craig Beardsley

- Crag Beardsley described progress on the new flagship facility under construction at KSU and its expected usage in protecting the American Public and domestic food supply from plausible endemic and emerging biological threats. There will be interdisciplinary coordination among KSU colleges to ensure preparedness. A tour of the finished facility for present members will be available in July. Watch Kansas Train for signup information. Security check of participants will be necessary, so pre-registration is required.

- Grants and Training Program

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Cpt. Mark Bruce

- Cpt. Mark Bruce reported on the 1999-2005 fiscal year reports and funding cycles. Current 2006 funding will be based on: (1) reduced base amount, (2) Risk analysis findings (risk and needs), and (3) capabilities assessments and resultant demonstrable needs of thirteen areas in the state. Funding

determinations will be announced May 31st, to which the KHP must report expected allocation of those funds within 30 days. Expected allocation includes ½ of the funds to the state's counties, and ½ allocated to Homeland Security regions. Overall goals for the year are continued exercise training opportunities and administrative support.

- Break for lunch and award presentation at 12:15 P.M.
 - Interagency recognition for training excellence awarded to Cpt. Sam Konkel, Tod Bunting, Dick Morrissey, the Kansas State Fire Marshal and Kansas Highway Patrol.
 - Kansas Emergency Management recognized Sedgwick County with an award of appreciation for the county's help and cooperation in statewide emergency preparedness.
 - Public Health Program and Hospital Initiatives - Mindee Reece
 - Mindee Reece reported on the agency's mission statement and primary goals to prevent, detect/report, and investigate, control and, the newly added goal, recover from a health emergency. This five point mission is designed to address health emergencies in a timely, efficient and effective manner. Past preparedness accomplishments include the initiation of a statewide courier system, statewide smallpox plans and bioterrorism preparedness and participation in the Kansas Health Alert Network. Information regarding the Kansas Pandemic Flu plan is also available at www.kdheks.gov.
 - Long Range Weather Forecast - Curt Holderback
 - Curt Holderback provided a comprehensive demonstration of the National Weather Service of Topeka, KS website and spent time carefully defining pertinent terms used in long term weather forecasting. Curt concluded stating that forecaster confidence and skill in long range prediction is low due to a weakening La Nina weather system and the development of the ENSO neutral system that is expected to replace it.
 - Governor's Council on Homeland Security - Col. Bill Seck
 - Col. Seck reported on the 18 member council which has been in existence for approximately 2 ½ years, identifying its focus on regional interoperability and fund allocation to outlying regions. The next meeting will be on May ____ at 2:00 pm.
 - 800 MHz - Jaci Vogel
 - Jaci Vogel described the current progress of the Statewide Wireless Interoperable Communication System and reported that now that Phase I (SE Kansas) is complete, Phase II and III are next to consider. To this end, it is necessary to consider area populations, industry, agriculture, existing users, and turnpike priority in remaining areas. Minimizing redundancy is also a priority and will be considered as the project proceeds.
 - KS-TRAIN - Deb Nickels
 - Deb Nickels explained the goal of KS-TRAIN is to provide one internet location that has training and standards information for all regions. KS-TRAIN is rapidly growing in terms of regional coverage and number of subject areas offered. More than a search engine, KS-TRAIN can track course reviews, hold user transcripts and resources and provides discussion and announcement

boards. Participants of today's meeting are encouraged to pick up a KS-TRAIN brochure for further information.

- National Guard Vigilant Exercise - Col. William Vonderschmidt
 - Col. Vonderschmidt reported on the multi-state three day exercise training conducted in region seven of the state in March. Training exercises included tabletop demonstrations emphasizing decision making processes under stress and interoperability training. Col Vonderschmidt provided examples of scenarios used for training to give the committee a feel for the scope of training.
- Natural Disasters, Katrina AAR, and Shelter AAR - Gene Krase
 - Gene Krase presented a comprehensive review of nine recent disasters and one Emergency situation since January 2002. Successes included efficient planning for the possible influx of Hurricane Katrina and Rita evacuees to Kansas and deployment of 550 Kansas National Guard. Gene also provided an inventory of lessons learned from these past situations which can be incorporated in future responses.
- Fire Service Update - Pat Lehman
 - Pat Lehman acts as representative of the Fire Service Alliance before the Kansas legislature. The Fire Service Alliance is an alliance of Kansas Fire Marshal Professionals. Pat reported on the approval of distinct fire plates for fire worker for motorcycles. House Bill 2648 proposing the combinations of the State Fire Marshal's office with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation was sent to an interim study committee and may reappear next session as five separate bills. House Bill 2676 regarding restrictive covenants regarding roofing composition passed, allowing homeowners within housing associations to replace wood shake shingles with other compounds as a measure to reduce a fire hazard. Pat reiterated the benefits and purpose of House Bill 2928, the Kansas Intrastate Mutual Aid statute.
- State Training Advisory Team (STAT) Charter - Glen Pribbenow
 - Glen Pribbenow, STAT chair provided background information for STAT, which was established by the Kansas Highway Patrol in May of 2005. Discussion surrounding the charter of this new organization resulted in consensus that industry should be invited to participate as non-voting members and LEPC should be represented as a voting member of the new charter organization. Glen explained that the charter can meet whatever needs the committee feels are necessary for consolidating training so long as the charter meets and sustains grant requirements. Jack Taylor moved for the official charter of STAT, the motions was seconded by Kevin Moles, the motion carried unanimously.
- Meeting adjourned
 - Closing remarks and informal announcements of upcoming events were provided by Major General Tod Bunting. The Committee intends to meet again within four months. Karen Schuyler moved that the meeting be adjourned; the motion was seconded by Randy Duncan and passed unanimously.